IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 4, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. (C. of C.) No 184.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the report of the Court of Claims in the case of John Robb, report:

The claimant was, during the years 1832 and 1833, chief clerk of the War Department, and was, at various times during those years, appointed by the President Acting Secretary of War during the temporary sickness or absence of the Secretary. He claims to be entitled to compensation for this extra service at the rate of \$6,000 per annum, in addition to his salary as chief clerk, and the opinion of the Court of Claims is in favor of the allowance as claimed.

The committee, upon a consideration of the case, have come to the conclusion that the claimant is not entitled to receive both the salaries—that of head of the department and that of chief clerk—at the same time.

The chief clerk receives his appointment from, and holds his office at, the will of the Secretary; and if the same individual can be regarded as holding both offices at the same time, it would seem to involve the incongruity of a head of a department holding a subordinate appointment from himself. The extent to which the committee are disposed to go is, to allow at the rate of \$6,000 per annum during the time the claimant performed the duty of Acting Secretary of War, deducting whatever sums he may have received during the same time as chief clerk; and they report a bill in accordance with these views.

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